Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the above-captioned patent application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An MPEG video decoder comprising:

an image decoding section which decodes parameters of each layer and a picture based on an MPEG bit stream, the image decoding section including an internal buffer for temporarily storing a decoded picture and decoded parameters;

a frame memory having a plurality of banks and connected to the image decoding section, wherein each of said ~~bank~~ banks has an area for storing the decoded ~~stores one~~ picture and the decoded parameters of each layer decoded by said image decoding section, and stores the decoded picture and the decoded parameters by mutually relating the decoded picture and the decoded parameters as a set, wherein the layer includes a sequence layer which has a horizontal size value and a vertical size value, both expressing sizes of an image, as parameters;

a decode control section which controls said image decoding section; ~~and~~

a display control section connected to the decode control section and to the frame memory, the display control section carrying out a display control of a picture to be displayed, based on the parameters of each layer related to said picture stored in said frame memory; and

a status register for storing values indicating whether display of the decoded picture stored in the frame memory has finished, wherein the status register has an

arbitration function for arbitrating between the decode control section and the display control section.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The MPEG video decoder according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein

[[a]] the status register ~~which~~ displays a state of storing pictures of the plurality of banks,

wherein said decode control section updates said status register when the decoding of one picture has been completed, and said display control section updates said status register when the display of one picture has been completed.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The MPEG video decoder according to claim 1, wherein ~~said image decoding section has an~~ the internal buffer ~~that~~ temporarily stores [[a]] the decoded picture in a macro-block unit.

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The MPEG video decoder according to claim [[4]] 3, wherein a data transfer path for transferring a decoded picture from said internal buffer to said frame memory also works as a data transfer path for transferring the decoded parameters of each layer between said internal buffer and said frame memory.

Claim 6. (Original) The MPEG video decoder according to claim 1, wherein said image decoding section decodes the parameters of a picture to be decoded, and updates parameters of each layer related to a picture that has been decoded immediately before by writing the decoded parameters into these parameters, thereby to generate the parameters of each layer relating to the picture to be decoded.

Claim 7. (Original) The MPEG video decoder according to claim 1, wherein said decode control section operates asynchronously with a vertical synchronization signal, and said display control section operates in synchronism with the vertical synchronization signal.

Claim 8. (Original) The MPEG video decoder according to claim 2, wherein if the displayed picture is a reference picture of other picture, then said display control section does not update said status register after the completion of the display of that picture.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An MPEG video decoding method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

reading parameters of each layer relating to a picture that has been decoded immediately before;

decoding parameters corresponding to a picture to be decoded, and updating the parameters of each layer that have been read at the first stage by using the decoded parameters;

storing the parameters obtained at the parameter decoding ~~step~~ into a frame memory;

decoding said picture; ~~and~~

storing the decoded picture into said frame memory so as to be combined with the decoded parameters of each layer corresponding to the decoded picture as a set, by relating the decoded picture to the decoded parameters of each layer corresponding to the decoded picture, wherein the layer includes a sequence layer which has a horizontal size value and a vertical size value, both expressing sizes of an image, as parameters;

controlling display of a picture to be displayed, based on the parameters of each layer stored in said frame memory;

storing values in a status register, the values indicating whether display of the decoded picture stored in the frame memory has finished; and

arbitrating between the decoding of said picture and said parameters and the controlling of display.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The MPEG video decoding method according to claim 9, wherein when decoding a first picture, in the parameter reading step, parameters are read from a memory area that is to store the parameters of each layer attached to the picture to be decoded.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The MPEG decoder according to claim 1, wherein the layer includes at least one layer of a GOP layer and a picture layer.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The MPEG decoding method according to claim 9, wherein the layer includes at least one layer of a GOP layer and a picture layer.